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DEPARTMENT	OF	INSURANCE

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Docket No. 7164

SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Respondent.

Upon information obtained by the Department of
Insurance during a current market conduct examination of Old
Hickory Casualty Insurance Company ["Old Hickory"] and upon a
reasonable belief thereon, the Director of Insurance enters the
following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the
following Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is presently, and was at all material times, licensed as an insurance agent and as an insurance adjuster by the Arizona Department of Insurance ("the Department").
- 2. During the approximate time from March, 1988 until the present time, Old Hickory has contracted with American Pathfinders, Inc. ("Pathfinders") to perform managing general agency services for Old Hickory.
- 3. During the above-referenced period of time, Respondent was employed by Pathfinders as claims manager.
- 4. One of the claim files at Pathfinders, No. 89-03-0073 for Old Hickory's policyholder Earl Shipe, indicates that a claim payment to Concours Paint and Body Shop was made by Pathfinders in the amount of \$5,408.68 on or about March 23, 1989.

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5. On or about February 19, 1989, Earl Shipe incurred a bill for towing his vehicle in the amount of \$112.42 and filed a claim for reimbursement under his Old Hickory policy up to the policy limit of \$75.00.

- 6. The above-referenced claim file was subsequently altered in handwriting identified as that of Kevin Allen. The alteration purports to include property damage which occurred on or about February 19, 1989, as a result of an accident involving Shipe's motor home and the vehicle of one Louise Manning, and which purported to result in damage to Manning's 1986 Saab in an estimated amount of \$5,000.00.
- 7. The file contains an "Automobile Damage Evaluation" for a 1988 Subaru GL 4x4, owner unidentified, with a damage estimate of \$5,408.68. The vehicle is not the same as that described in the Automobile Loss Notice as the vehicle owned by Louise Manning.
- 8. On or about May 10, 1990, the Department wrote to Mr. Earl Shipe requesting that he verify that his motor home was involved on or about February 19, 1989, in an accident resulting in property damage to a 1986 Saab or 1988 Subaru owned by Louise Manning for which a claim payment of in excess of \$5,000 was made.
- 9. On or about May 14, 1990, Joan Shipe, the wife of Earl Shipe, contacted the Department and stated that the motor home owned by her and her husband Earl Shipe had not been involved in any accident and that the above-referenced "accidents" and "payments" were completely "phony".

10. On or about May 14, 1990, Joan Shipe wrote to the Department stating that the Shipe's motor home had never been involved in any accident and that she does not know anyone named Louise Manning.

an employee of the Department on May 22, 1990, that (a) he has never had an accident with the covered vehicle since he has owned it; (b) the only claim he has filed with Old Hickory was for a \$75.00 towing charge; (c) he has never had his vehicle repaired at Concours Paint & Body; (d) he had never heard of Concours Paint & Body prior to receiving the Department's letter of May 10, 1990; (e) he had never heard of Louise Manning; (f) he is unaware of any claim made against his policy by the owner of a 1986 Saab or 1988 Subaru; and (g) he has recently received the renewal notice for his policy, which contained no premium increase, as might be expected if an accident in excess of \$5,000.00 had been reported against his policy.

12. The claim check transmittal instruction sheet in claim file no. 89-03-0073 was written by Kevin Allen in his own handwriting and directs payment for the above-referenced property damage "claim" out of Account No. 35 to Concours Paint & Body in the amount of \$5,408.68.

13. In a separate incident file, Pathfinders claim file No. 89-01-0163 shows that Pathfinders issued a claim check on or about March 31, 1989, to Concours Paint and Body Shop in the amount of \$7,086.35; that this payment related to a property damage claim incurred as a result of an accident on or about December 21, 1988, involving the vehicle of Old Hickory's

policyholder, Lisa Ann Clark, and one Daryl Olson, whose 1989 Lincoln Continental was damaged.

- 14. The claim check transmittal instruction sheet in the above-referenced file states "to me" in Kevin Allen's handwriting.
- 15. On or about May 10, 1990, the Department wrote to Mr. Olson requesting from him verification of the above-referenced "facts".
- about May 11, 1990 and stated that he was completely unaware that the above-referenced amount had been paid regarding any damage to his vehicle and that the damage which occurred to his vehicle as a result of an accident on or about December 21, 1988, was much less extensive than would warrant a \$7,000 payment and that in his estimation the damage could not have exceeded \$450.
- 17. On or about May 11, 1990, Mr. Olson also wrote to the Department indicating the above-referenced facts.
- 18. Mr. Olson stated during a taped interview with an employee of the Department on May 17, 1990, that (a) he was never instructed to take his vehicle to Concours Paint & Body; (b) that he has never had any repairs to his vehicle effected at Concours; (c) he has never filed any additional claims against Old Hickory; and (d) to the best of his knowledge, because there was no collision between his vehicle and that of the insured, the insured's vehicle suffered no damage as a result of this incident.

19. During a taped telephone interview with an employee of the Department on May 24, 1990, the insured, Lisa Clark, stated that (a) she was in the insured vehicle, which was driven by her husband Clinton, at the time of the accident; (b) there was no collision between her vehicle and that driven by Mr. Olson; (c) that her vehicle sustained no damage as a result of this incident; (d) that she has never filed a claim against her Old Hickory policy as a result of this or any other accident; and (e) that she has never had her vehicle repaired at Concours Paint & Body for any reason.

20. On or about the first week in May, 1990, an employee of Pathfinders, one Rose Kucharski, informed the Department examiner that the phrase "to me" on the instruction sheet was written by Kevin Allen and meant that checks with that instruction should be delivered directly to Kevin Allen.

- 21. On or about May 11, 1990, the Department issued a subpoena for the claims files at Pathfinders.
- 22. Upon arriving at Pathfinders, the Department's examiner, David Parks, was told by Conrad Allen, owner of Pathfinders and Kevin's father, that Kevin Allen was "missing."
- 23. Upon requesting copies of all checks issued by Pathfinders, the Department was told that Kevin Allen had the checks. Despite the Department's subsequent demands for the cancelled checks, both Kevin Allen and Pathfinders have failed or refused to produce them.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The above-referenced conduct by Respondent constitutes misappropriation or conversion to Respondent's own

use or illegal withholding of monies belonging to policyholders, insurers, beneficiaries or others received in or during the conduct of business under the license or through its use within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-316(A)(4).

- 2. The above-referenced conduct indicates that Respondent is incompetent or a source of injury and loss to, or repeated complaint by, the public or any insurer within the meaning A.R.S. § 20-316(A)(7).
- 3. The public health, safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action to suspend Respondent's licenses pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1064(C).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Any and all of Respondent's insurance licenses issued by the Arizona Department of Insurance are suspended effective this date.
- 2. A hearing will be held on the 21st day of June, 1990, at the Arizona Department of Insurance, 3030 North 3rd Street, Suite 1100, Phoenix, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. o'clock at which time the Department will seek revocation of Respondent's licenses based upon the above-referenced and other related conduct.
- 3. Nothing in this Order shall imply or be construed as prohibiting or in any way limiting the Department from continuing to investigate, secure evidence, and institute all appropriate action regarding the conduct of Respondent and others in these matters.

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- 4. Motions to continue this matter shall be made in writing not less than five (5) business days prior to the date set for the hearing.
- 5. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-150, the Director herewith delegates all of her authority, powers, duties and functions, whether ministerial or discretionary, with which she is vested as Director of Insurance of the State of Arizona, whether implied or expressed to Sara M. Begley for the purpose of acting as Hearing Officer in this matter. This delegation of authority shall continue until specifically revoked.

DATED this 31st day of May , 1990

SUSAN GALLINGER

Director of Insurance

COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 1st day of June, 1990, to:

Mark Sendrow Assistant Chief Counsel Attorney General's Office 1275 W. Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007

Jay Rubin, Assistant Director Deloris E. Williamson, Assistant Director Maureen Catalioto, Supervisor Department of Insurance 3030 N. 3rd Street, Suite 1100 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Kevin Kay Allen 8042 E. Windsor Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

American Pathfinders, Inc. 657 W. University

P.O. 699

Mesa, Arizona 85201

Chris Crawford

MARY SHUMALIETT

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Insurance Department
OFFICE Licensing Section MARY SHOWALTER

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